

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 0216Z 061228Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 MCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02
PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15
SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 /077 W
-----061243Z 045717 /45

O 061136Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1728
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PK, PINT
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN KARACHI

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF PROTEST ACTIVITY MAY 6 CALLED FOR BY THE PNA, THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES REIMPOSED A DAYTIME CURFEW IN KARACHI AND HYDERABAD FOR THE DAY. THE CURFEW WAS ON FROM 0900 TO 1300, WAS LIFTED FROM 1300 TO 1500 AND IS NOW IN EFFECT AGAIN UNTIL 1900. THE MORNING WAS UNEVENTFUL, WITH POOR ATTENDANCE AT WORK PLACES OWING IN PART TO FEAR AND IN LARGER PART TO A SHORTAGE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AS BUS OPERATORS SAW NO POINT IN TRYING TO OPERATE UNDER THE CURFEW CONDITIONS. MARTIAL LAW REGULATIONS WERE TECHNICALLY VIOLATED YESTERDAY BY THE POSTING OF NOTICES, MAINLY AT JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI OFFICES, ADVERTISING TODAY'S "MARTYR'S DAY" DEMONSTRATIONS. ALSO, PERSONS HAVE BEEN SEEN WEARING PLACARDS READING IN URDU "THE DISCLOSURE OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY BY FOREIGN POWERS IS ITSELF A CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE NATION."

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2. AS OF LATE AFTERNOON NO SIGNIFICANT DEFIANCE OF MARTIAL LAW OR THE CURFEW HAS BEEN REPORTED IN KARACHI, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION QUICKLY BECAUSE OF THE DAYTIME CURFEW. ONE OF OUR EMPLOYEES MAKING AN ABBREVIATED TOUR OF THE CENTRAL CITY JUST BEFORE REIMPOSITION OF THE CURFEW AT 1500 REPORTED

A SIZEABLE CROWD OF YOUNG MEN NEAR ONE OF THE MAJOR MOSQUES. THEY WERE CHANTING ANTI-BHUTTO SLOGANS AS ARMY TROOPS ARRIVED IN TRUCKS AND BEGAN TO DISEMBARK. OUR OBSERVER WAS UNABLE TO REMAIN IN THE STREET TO ASCERTAIN THE OUTCOME OF THIS POTENTIAL INCIDENT, WHICH LOOKED LIKE AN INCIPIENT IF ISOLATED CHALLENGE OF THE CURFEW. OTHER MOSQUES VISITED WERE QUIET, THOUGH FRIDAY PRAYERS HAD JUST ENDED.

3. REPORTS FROM HYDERABAD ARE FRAGMENTARY BUT INDICATE THAT SOME KIND OF TROUBLE BROKE OUT THERE THE MORNING OF MAY 6. AFTER ANNOUNCING THAT THE CURFEW WOULD BE LIFTED FROM 1300 TO 1500, THE AUTHORITIES IN FACT CONTINUED THE CURFEW THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY. CONSEQUENTLY OUR SOURCES ARE PINNED DOWN AND WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE AS OF LATER AFTERNOON TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE SUPPOSED TROUBLE OF THE MORNING OR OF ANY AFTERNOON DEVELOPMENTS. RADIO PAKISTAN, BROADCASTING FROM HYDERABAD, SAID THAT THE CURFEW WAS NOT RELAXED FROM 1300 TO 1500 BECAUSE IT BECAME KNOWN THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE PLANNED TO "TAKE LAW AND ORDER INTO THEIR OWN HANDS" DURING THAT PERIOD.

4. MAY 5 THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR FOR KARACHI AND HYDERABAD DECLARED THAT WORKERS FORCED TO BE ABSENT FROM THEIR WORK DUE TO THE CURFEW SINCE APRIL 20 WOULD BE PAID ACCORDING THE THE FOLLOWING FORMULA: (A) FOR HALF OF THE PERIOD OF ABSENCE THEY WOULD BE CONSIDERED TO BE ON LEAVE AND PAID ACCORDINGLY; (B) FOR THE OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HALF OF THE PERIOD THEY WOULD BE PAID EX-GRATIA. THIS FORMULA WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ARRIVED AT BY AGREEMENT AMONG THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KARACHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT THE FORMULA FOR PAYMENT OF WORKERS FOR ABSENCES CAUSED BY CURFEWS, HARTALS AND DEMONSTRATIONS PRIOR TO APRIL 20.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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